



Contact:

Mary Lou Norwell

In-House Counsel

Telephone: 815.936.3559

Email: mrnorwell@citykankakee-il.gov

Date: March 2, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Richard G. Simms Changes Plea in Recent Hearing

Kankakee, IL – Former City of Kankakee employee and consultant, Richard G. Simms, recently changed his plea from “not guilty” to “guilty” in a recent plea hearing.

Simms has been indicted of fraud by illegally stealing approximately two million dollars from the Kankakee River Metropolitan Agency (KRMA) and the Environmental Services Utility (ESU) over a four year time period. Richard Simms began his tenure with the City under previous administrations.

Shortly after being elected in 2017, Mayor Wells-Armstrong questioned the \$66,000 a month payments from the City of Kankakee and KRMA to Simms which led to the investigation.

A press release was released in August of 2020 and can be referred to here: https://citykankakee-il.gov/post_custom.php?s=2020-08-05-indictment-of-richard-g-simms.

Sentencing for Simms has been set for June 28, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. Prior to sentencing, there will be a pre-sentencing investigation.

"I am pleased with the outcome of this case and look forward to funds being restored to our residents. This administration worked very hard to expose this corruption and we will continue to fight against any person who engages in fraudulent practices against our City," said Mayor Wells-Armstrong.

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The City of Kankakee is dedicated to protecting, building, and nurturing the community while enhancing lives. We are a historic, vibrant, and active riverfront community. We continue to transform into an extraordinary place to dream, grow, and thrive. Embracing our diversity, we strive to be progressive, inclusive, and innovative. For more

information on the City of Kankakee, please visit the website at www.citykankakee-il.gov.